

Kimbrough Named BSN Defensive Player Of Year

Written by Mike Kelly

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The post-season all-america honors have begun. And as usual, the Appalachian State University football team has been well recognized. Linebacker Jeremy

Kimbrough was named the Beyond Sports Network Defensive Player of the Year. Kimbrough led the Mountaineers with 143 tackles, including 69 solo stops. He also had a team-high 12.5 tackles-for-loss and 4.5 quarterback sacks with an interception.

In all, five Mountaineers were named to the BSN All-America squad. Kimbrough and defensive back Demetrius McCray were first-team selections. McCray had 55 tackles and a team-leading four interceptions. McCray and Kimbrough are also candidates for the Buck Buchanan Award, which goes to the best defensive player in the country at the FCS level.

Kicker/punter Sam Martin was a second-team selection. Martin averaged 46-yard a punt, and he had 14 punts that traveled 50-yards or more, including one of 68 yards. He also downed 25 of his attempts inside the 20-yard-line, and he averaged 63-yards on kick-offs with 45 touchbacks. Martin was 7-10 on field goals with a season-best 47 yarder, and he made 16 of 17 extra points.

Wide receiver Sean Price, who is among the leading candidates for The Sports Network's Jerry Rice Award that goes to the best freshman in the nation at the FCS level, was a third-team selection. Price, a red-shirt freshman, caught 81 passes for 1,196 yards and eight touchdowns. Wide receiver/kick returner Tony Washington was named Honorable Mention. Washington caught 39 passes for 472 yards and three TDs; he also returned 16 punts for a nine-yard average, and he returned 23 kick-offs for a 27-yard average, including a 99-yard kick-off return for a touchdown against Wofford College on October 20.

Running back Eric Breitenstein of Wofford College, one of the top three candidates for the Walter Payton Award that goes to the best offensive player in the country at the FCS level, was a first-team selection. He's joined on the squad by defensive lineman Brent Russell of Georgia Southern, who also a candidate for the Buck Buchanan Award, and wide receiver Aaron Mellette of Elon.

Breitenstein ran for a school record 1,900 yards and 19 touchdowns (and counting), and he is also the school's all-time leading rusher with 5,595 career rushing yards and 65 TDs.

Breitenstein and the Terriers play at defending national champion North Dakota State in the FCS national quarterfinals Saturday.

Russell has made 39 tackles with 7.5 TFL and 3.5 quarterback sacks this season; the Eagles travel to Old Dominion in a national quarterfinal showdown Saturday.

Mellette caught 97 passes for 1,408 yards and 18 TDs.

Photo Courtesy: Jeremy Kimbrough, ASU Athletics